

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending
3 s. 1004.085, F.S.; providing requirements for lists of
4 required and recommended textbooks and instructional
5 materials for Florida College System institution and
6 state university courses; amending s. 1007.24, F.S.;
7 revising the maintenance requirements of and
8 information that must be included in the statewide
9 course numbering system; requiring certain
10 postsecondary educational institutions' registration
11 processes to include specified information; requiring
12 certain postsecondary educational institutions to
13 accept and apply general education courses and credit
14 in a specified manner; requiring the State Board of
15 Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for
16 the rules; creating s. 1008.47, F.S.; defining the
17 term "postsecondary education institution"; requiring
18 public postsecondary education institutions to
19 collaborate to identify accrediting agencies or
20 associations that are recognized by the database
21 created and maintained by the United States Department
22 of Education, other than their current accrediting
23 agencies or associations, from which to seek
24 accreditation and seek and obtain accreditation;
25 creating a cause of action for postsecondary education

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institutions; authorizing the award of specified damages, court costs, and attorney fees; providing for the future expiration of specified provisions; amending ss. 1009.23 and 1009.24, F.S.; requiring Florida College System institutions and state universities, respectively, to post specified information relating to tuition and fee rates and proposed changes to such rates on their websites; revising the information that must be included in a required notice to students; requiring a specific press release to be e-mailed to enrolled students; providing requirements for a Florida College System institution or state university, respectively, to raise, impose, or authorize certain fees; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials affordability and transparency.—

(5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state university shall post prominently in the course registration

51 system and on its website, ~~as early as is feasible, but at least~~
52 ~~45 days before the first day of class for each term,~~ a hyperlink
53 to lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional
54 materials for at least 95 percent of all courses and course
55 sections offered at the institution during the upcoming term.
56 The lists must include the International Standard Book Number
57 (ISBN) for each required and recommended textbook and
58 instructional material or other identifying information, which
59 must include, at a minimum, all of the following: the title, all
60 authors listed, publishers, edition number, copyright date,
61 published date, and other relevant information necessary to
62 identify the specific textbooks or instructional materials
63 required and recommended for each course. The State Board of
64 Education and the Board of Governors shall include in the
65 policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted under subsection
66 (6) certain limited exceptions to this notification requirement
67 for classes added after the notification deadline.

68 (b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and
69 instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must:

70 1. Be posted as early as is feasible but at least 45 days
71 before the first day of class for each term.

72 2. Remain posted for at least 5 academic years.

73 3. Be searchable by the course subject, course number,
74 course title, the name of the instructor of the course, the
75 title of each assigned textbook or instructional material, and

each author of an assigned textbook or instructional material.

4. Be easily downloadable by current and prospective students.

(c) If a course subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) is a general education core course option identified pursuant to s. 1007.25, course syllabi information containing sufficient detail to inform students of all of the following must be included:

1. The course curriculum.

2. The goals, objectives, and student expectations of the course.

3. How student performance will be measured.

Section 2. Subsection (8) of section 1007.24, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), subsections (4), (5), and present subsection (8) are amended, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

(4) The statewide course numbering system must be ~~shall~~ maintained electronically and regularly updated by the department, and include the courses at the recommended levels, course numbers, course titles, credits awarded, and other identifiable information by institution and academic year, as required by state board rule.

(5) The registration process at each state university and Florida College System institution shall include the courses at their designated levels, ~~and~~ and statewide course numbers, course

101 titles, credits awarded, and other identifiable information, as
102 required by state board rule.

103 (8) Participating postsecondary institutions receiving
104 transfer course credit must accept and apply general education
105 courses and credit in accordance with this section, s. 1007.25,
106 and other provisions of law, including credit earned through
107 dual enrollment, course equivalencies, and other acceleration
108 mechanisms, as first satisfying general education core course
109 credit requirements and other general education subject area
110 course credit requirements before applying the course credit as
111 elective credit.

112 (9)~~(8)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that
113 provide for the collection of course information from
114 participating institutions, identifiable information required
115 for each course, and the conduct of regularly scheduled faculty
116 committee reviews and recommendations. At a minimum, rules must
117 address all of the following:

118 (a) Required institutional reporting formats, timelines,
119 and procedures for the timely and uniform collection and
120 publication of course data information.

121 (b) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and
122 recommendations to the commissioner for the alignment or
123 realignment of courses, course numbers, course titles,
124 designated levels, credits awarded, and other identifiable
125 information for the purpose of facilitating credit transfer and

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126 acceptance for substantially similar courses at receiving
127 institutions.

128 (c) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and
129 recommendations to the commissioner for the classification or
130 reclassification of courses as satisfying general education,
131 general education core, prerequisite, substitution, equivalency,
132 civic literacy, or other course types, pursuant to s. 1007.25,
133 consistent with subject area, course content, programmatic, and
134 other requirements outlined in rule.

135 (d) Purges of courses that are listed in the statewide
136 course numbering system but have not been taught at an
137 institution for the preceding 5 years. These rules must include
138 waiver provisions that allow course continuation if an
139 institution has reasonable cause for having not offered a course
140 within the 5-year limit and an expectation that the course will
141 be offered again within the following 5 years.

142 Section 3. Section 1008.47, Florida Statutes, is created
143 to read:

144 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution
145 accreditation.—

146 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
147 "postsecondary education institution" means a Florida College
148 System institution, state university, or nonpublic postsecondary
149 education institution that receives state funds.

150 (2) ACCREDITATION.— A public postsecondary education

151 institution may not be accredited by the same accrediting agency
152 or association for consecutive accreditation cycles. In the year
153 following reaffirmation or fifth-year review by their
154 accrediting agencies or associations, public postsecondary
155 education institutions must collaborate to identify accrediting
156 agencies or associations that are recognized by the database
157 created and maintained by the United States Department of
158 Education, other than their current accrediting agencies or
159 associations, from which to seek accreditation and seek and
160 obtain accreditation before their next reaffirmation date.

161 (3) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education institution
162 negatively impacted by retaliatory action taken against the
163 postsecondary education institution by an accrediting agency or
164 association may bring an action against the accrediting agency
165 or association in a court of competent jurisdiction and may
166 obtain liquidated damages up to the amount of federal financial
167 aid received by the postsecondary education institution, court
168 costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

169 (4) This section expires December 31, 2032.

170 Section 4. Subsection (20) of section 1009.23, Florida
171 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that
172 section, to read:

173 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

174 (20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and
175 any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be

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176 prominently posted on the institution's website in an area that
177 is transparent and easily accessible. Each Florida College
178 System institution shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled
179 students of any proposal to increase tuition or fees at least 28
180 days before its consideration for a vote taken at a board of
181 trustees meeting. The notice must:

182 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the
183 proposal will be considered.

184 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition
185 and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the
186 rationale and necessity for the proposed increase, and how the
187 funds from the proposed increase will be used.

188 (c) Be posted on the institution's website and issued in a
189 press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to
190 all enrolled students.

191 (21) Any proposal or action of a Florida College System
192 institution to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as
193 authorized by law, except for tuition, must be approved by a
194 supermajority vote of the members of the board of trustees of
195 the institution, if approval by the board of trustees is
196 required by general law, and at least a supermajority vote of
197 the members of the State Board of Education, if approval by the
198 State Board of Education is required by general law, in order to
199 take effect.

200 Section 5. Subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida

Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that section, to read:

1009.24 State university student fees.—

(20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be prominently posted on the state university's website in an area that is transparent and easily accessible. Each state university shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration for a vote taken at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

(a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered.

(b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the rationale and necessity for the proposed change, and how the funds from the proposed change will be used.

(c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to all enrolled students.

(21) Pursuant to s. 7(e), Art. IX of the State Constitution, any proposal or action of a constituent university to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law, except for tuition, must be approved by at least nine affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the

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226 constituent university, if approval by the board of trustees is
227 required by general law, and at least twelve affirmative votes
228 of the members of the Board of Governors, if approval by the
229 Board of Governors is required by general law, in order to take
230 effect.

231 Section 6. The Division of Law Revision shall prepare a
232 reviser's bill to replace references to the phrases "the
233 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission
234 on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and
235 Schools," and "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
236 Commission on Colleges" wherever they occur in Florida Statutes
237 with the phrase "an accrediting agency or association recognized
238 by the database created and maintained by the United States
239 Department of Education."

240 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.